



QCWA HOT-LINE REPORT

April 2001

Membership

Of late there have been several inquiries about Life and/or Family membership and the details.

Family membership can be granted only in the three year dues structure or in Life membership plans. This is ideal when there are two eligible members in the same family group, both eligible for QCWA. If a member is in the three year program or in the Life program and the other party becomes eligible for QCWA membership it is much less expensive to make one a primary member and the other a Family member.

In the case of 3 year membership, the Family member charge is \$12.00, for Life the Family member cost is \$90.00. To this new member the additional cost of \$3.00 is always charged. Both must be in the same household and both have to be eligible for QCWA. The Family member does not get the Journal but everything else is active for them.

Naming files for the Journal

All of us are going to have to start using some naming conventions when submitting material about the Chapters for Journal publication. We are going to follow this very carefully from here on out. Lots of files have file names that stretch from here to there and that is not necessary. It becomes even worse for our Editor when he tries to match some text with some photos to place them into the Journal pages.

If you are sending us an article about your chapter it makes it easier and quicker for all concerned if you will give us a .txt file. Most all word processors can handle that, if they can't, then tell me and send it as a .doc file or at worse a .wpf file.

When naming the file, and let's assume this is the text file about the Chapter, begin with the letters CH and the chapter number and then the suffix, which we hope is a .txt. So, using my Chapter number, I would send the file as CH108.txt. Likewise, when sending a picture file, label it as CP108.jpg.

On occasion there is subsequent information you may wish added to your Chapter article and you send us another file. This time label that file CH108_2.txt, to indicate it is the 2nd version of the article. When you have a short chapter number and add a 2 to it, it can also become another chapter quickly and we have had that problem. The same rules also apply to your sending a second version of the photo file, it would then become CP108_2.jpg.

One problem arises with using digital cameras. The camera labels all the files with its own unique file system of naming that frame. When we

try to match some of those mixed up file names with an article it is a great time-consuming chore to match the article with the picture. So, when you save that picture file for sending to us, rename it as CP108.jpg and we quickly know what chapter it is.

Cameras and Prints

With the proliferation of digital cameras the question is asked which we would like to have, prints or digital files. First, we need sharp, good contrast files, whether prints or digital files. Working with several digital cameras lately, I have discovered some things that may hinder us if we follow the instructions in the last HLR.

Not all digital cameras allow for modification of resolution when taking your pictures. Most all of them will save the product as a .jpg file. Also, not all of the files come out at the resolution advertised in the specifications, so we must be careful. This means that you should have a digital imaging program in your computer to properly handle these files so that you can be certain of the resolution and the size of the picture. Adobe makes a couple of these programs, one is very expensive, and the other is not so expensive but will do everything you wish to do, very well. Many of the cameras have some software that comes with the camera and your printers come with some of this software.

The expensive program is Adobe Photoshop and sells for about \$600.00. The less expensive program is also Adobe and is called PhotoDeluxe Home Edition and is priced at \$49.00. Use one of these in your Windows system to always view your .jpg files, then you know what they look like.

Shoot some good pictures and then take a look at the files. What size do they produce in width and height? What is the resolution (expressed in dpi)? My camera produces 8X10 images, at several hundred dpi and the files are about 500,000 bytes, way too big to send on the internet. This is the second level of resolution in this camera. If you reduce the size down to maybe 4X5 inches, the size of the file reduces drastically, but be sure to leave the resolution alone which will be like 200 dpi or greater. We need that resolution when the editor goes to place this in the Journal, so that we have great pictures.

Do not depend upon the image you see in the viewing screen. While it may look great, the picture is not necessarily the same way. I found this out when shooting a bunch of group pictures at the Toronto convention and the pictures were not at all that great and it took hours of 'massaging' to get them ready to print. My Nikon film camera did its job like always, but I chose to use the digital to shoot these pictures. Live and learn. Properly using the digital camera is a process that demands a lot of attention to details.



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QCWA Journal on Cassette

Once again, remind your chapter members of the program for our sight-impaired members. It is up to our sighted members to inform them of the Cassettes that they can receive with the Journal news recorded. Put a notice in your newsletter and advise your net control operators of this service. Write to Blanche Randles, W4GXZ, 44 Western Lane, Amherst, MA, 01002 or send us a note to Headquarters and we will see that she gets the information.

Scanning

I have reported several times concerning our scanning project here at Headquarters. We are now complete with scanning over 30,000 applications and will keep it current from here on out. Looking back, we started doing this in September 1998 and at the time I wondered if we would ever be able to complete this project. We have, and we are now able to utilize some 13 file drawers that were otherwise occupied with books of old applications. Those books are now stored in file cases in the locker we have off premises. One copy of the disk is with our National Secretary, I have a copy at home, and the master copy is stored in our 'gun' safe here at the office. All of this material is on 10 CD Roms. What a difference in volume now stored.

Requests for Information

Something that will help us here in the office is your format of requests for various items.

When asking for various items please give us the Call as well as the Name of the individual involved. This is even more important now than in the past. With the Vanity call sign program, we are actually getting two names to come up when we type in the request in the database. One is an older member and we have never been notified of their being a SK, and the other is a new member that has obtained that call sign. When we issue a certificate to a member, we have to record it in the database and also on their individual IBM card in the file.

Basically we file by the call sign, so the call should always be listed for us. Having the name helps to get the right person quickly from the data base.

A reminder about our New Caps

We have adopted a new cap for our members. It is a twill cap, with a dark blue bill and a light tan body. The logo is embroidered on the front of the cap. A velcro strap is the method of adapting to various sizes. The cap will sell for \$15 which includes shipping in the US. This is a first class cap and everyone that has tried it calls it the best cap they have ever had.

A New web site for you

I just have to tell you about a new web site created by our editor. Gerry Wentz.

It is filled with all kinds of information, basically about computers and their operations and programs that are available for you to use. He has directed it towards the average computer user who would like to be able to do better.

There are reviews of great software he has discovered as well as warnings about some other software which could get you into problems. I urge you to take a look at his site at:

www.cybershipdigest.com

.. it is great.

Date of First Licensing

With the advent of issuing certificates for years of being an amateur radio operator, we have to depend upon the figures we have available in each member's record of the date they were first licensed. This date is established at the time membership is granted, either by information supplied by the applicant or by Headquarters using the Callbooks. Not much attention is paid to this date until it becomes time to issue a certificate. Incidentally, this date is indicated on your mailing label as the last item, expressed as two digits.

If we have to use the Callbooks to indicate a date of first licensing, we have to have the first call and we must remember that the date can be 'off' as much as one year, depending upon the time the license was issued and the date of the next printing of the book. That is the standard that is used for all members of QCWA, unless they provide 'proof' of their first license date at the time of their application for membership.

Although the application calls for 'proof' of the date of first licensing, most people do not provide that material so we use the Callbook. Your Chapter Secretaries might suggest to your members to inspect their mailing label (or use your annual membership listing) for the date of their first license. If it needs correction, let us know and we can work on that problem.

Nominating Committee

Our chairman of the Nominating committee is John Huntoon, W1RW. Not too much has been written about his job, but I am sure he would appreciate hearing from some of you who might like to be a candidate for the Board of Directors. This is a position that takes a few of your dollars to make it work. QCWA does reimburse some hotel expenses and a small amount of expense for mailing and telephone calls for Board members.



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Dayton

Let John know if you would like to run. His e-mail address is:

johunt@snet.net

and his mailing address is John Huntoon, W1RW, 574 Hills Street, E Hartford CT 06118-3030.

John needs to report to the BOD by July 31st of this year his list of candidates for next year's election.

In the event that you do not make contact with John in time for inclusion, there is one last method to follow. Obtain a petition form from Headquarters and submit it signed by 25 National active members to the General Manager by December 31, 2001.

Endowment Fund

The Endowment fund is growing and a lot of nice things have been happening in that area. We have handled three estates of radio equipment all to their benefit. In the process we have been notified that we are now in line for several more extensive estates of equipment. Letters have gone out to some older members reminding them that if they do not have plans for their equipment they can secure advice about proper instructions in their wills from the Endowment Administrator.

One estate brought us into contact with the CIA and a nice small compact "spy" radio is now in their museum and we hope to have an article about that before too long. In that regard we have agreements being worked upon with various museums so that special museum equipment can be saved for display. An agreement has been signed with the Marconi Museum.

This is a good program and further insures the future of QCWA. Also, and this may not be noted too well, this allows us to deal easier with gifts of equipment.

Awards

This year we have had a great number of 80 year plaques awarded, as well as a continuation of the 75 year plaque. This is one of the satisfying aspects of this job, seeing these people attain this level. The cooperation between the Chapters (where involved) and the individuals has been very good. We are trying to get good pictures for display in the Journal and for our retained files on these awards as well as some descriptions of the individuals experience with amateur radio.

This year the Board of Directors passed an amendment to the By-Laws whereby a member attaining the 75 year award would automatically be granted Life membership. This is a well-deserved measure of recognition for these people. This amendment will be in the forthcoming Journal that will be published in June.

Plans are under way for our booth at Dayton again this year. This is a major production, with several members of the organization making the annual trek to handle the booth and the members who come to the booth. We do get a fairly large amount of new members each year and have a steadily increasing group who rely upon us being there to renew their memberships.

One other nice thing is the number of Chapter Secretaries who attend and have questions for us about their chapter or members. It gives us the chance to meet in person and talk about operations.

This year our tables will be in a different area. The old site is being converted back to Forum rooms. We will be in the North Hall, booth #253. The traffic will perhaps be better than the old site we had for years.

Come see us at the booth.

Directory for 2001

At the moment it is planned that the Directory will be updated this summer as of June 30, 2001. A copy will be placed on the Home Page for everyone to use, and in the same format as is presently being used. This has generally been agreed to be the schedule at this time.

The entire Directory, Section 1, 2 and 3 will be updated just to keep up with any changes that are made. Of course, the call districts will have major changes. There have been a goodly number of SKs found and marked and we have had a fairly large number of new members this last year period and hope to have all of them included.

Although we have had no requests, if there is enough time I would like to create another section for the Directory, Section 4, which will show all of the SK members up to the present time. In this case we would list the call, name and date of death as we have it recorded.

And so we come to the end of another Hot Line Report.

I do hope you all have a good year and enjoy good health.

Don't forget the National net on Sunday at 2000 Z on 14.347. Conditions have not been so good, but should start to level off and show some great communications.

Keep those Chapter reports coming and include some good pictures for us to use in the Journal.

Jim, W7LVN

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